DECLASSIFIED

161820Z JAN

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

341

B

FROM: Amembassy SAN SALVADOR

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/N JOHN J. SULLIVAN

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

0408

INFO - 2 UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR

AIR DEPT. FOR CA/OCS/EMR

DCM

CHRON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 1 3 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

In accordance with the Department's request, the following are excerpts of Ambassador Hinton's interview pertaining to the Sullivan case:

"Q. What about the John Sullivan case, the journalist that disappeared last year?

A. The search continues but there has been absolutely no solid indication of what may have happened to him for over a year.

Q. Are you familiar with reports that a letter allegedly exists from a Salvadoran armed forces defector which says that Sullivan was killed by security forces by mistake?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us about that one?

A. That letter was traced down and it looked like it was an attempt by somebody to extort some money, and we did not view

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
CONS:GCLannon:mca.	1/18/82	275	CONS:GCLannon

CLEARANCES:

UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM

DECLASSIFIED

it as a solid lead, but it was traced very carefully.

Q. Has that letter been discredited then?

A. On the basis of what happened as we pursued that lead I would say it was discredited.

Q. Were you in possession of that letter?

A. Oh yes, sure.

Q. And do the parents now have that letter?

A. I just don't know, I think the parents were informed in a general way of what was going on at that time, but I am not certain of it.

Q. Do you know when that letter was received?

A. Three or four months ago originally, I believe. We have pursued leads on all of these cases with all of the vigor we could muster. The poor Vice-Consul here has personally investigated and been present on I don't know how many bodies have been dug up, when we have indications that it might be the body of John Sullivan. The dental work has always indicated that it was not John Sullivan, but what has been done in this case is absolutely staggering.

Q. Did the letter mention that Sullivan had been killed by security forces?

A. There was a letter that said that, yes. There are lots of letters that say lots of things in this country; we pursued that one and I am personally persuaded that it was a false lead.

DECLASSIFIED

OPTIONAL FORM 153A
(Formerly FS-413A)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153 201

DECLASSIFIED
Classification

Probably written and started to, sort of a sizable attempt to get some money out somebody."

CLINTON

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification

342

Q. What about the John Sullivan case, the journalist that disappeared last year?

A. The search continues but there has been absolutely no solid indication of what may have happened to him for over a year.

Q. Are you familiar with reports that a letter allegedly exists from a salvadoran armed forces defector which says that Sullivan was killed by security forces by mistake?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us about that one?

A. That letter was traced down and it looked like it was an attempt by somebody to extort some money, and we did not view it as a solid lead, but it was traced it very carefully.

Q. Has that letter been discredited then?

A. On the basis of what happened as we pursued that lead I would say it was discredited.

Q. Were you in possession of that letter?

A. Oh yes, sure.

Q. And do the parents now have that letter?

A. I just don't know, I think the parents were informed in a general way of what was going on at that time, but I am not certain of it.

Q. Do you know when that letter was received?

A. Three of four months ago originally, I believe. We have pursued leads on all of these cases with all of the vigor we could muster. The poor Vice-Consul here has personally investigated and been present on I don't know how many bodies have been dug up, when we have indications that it might be the body of John Sullivan. The dental work has always indicated that it was not John Sullivan, but what has been done in this case is absolutely staggering.

Q. Did the letter mention that Sullivan had been killed by security forces?

A. There was a letter that said that, yes. There are lots of letters that say lots of things in this country; we pursued that one and I am personally persuaded that it was a false lead. Probably written and started by sort of a macabre attempt to get some money out somebody.